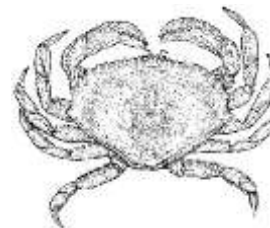

ALASKA DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME

DIVISION OF COMMERCIAL FISHERIES

NEWS RELEASE



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Petersburg, AK 99833
Date: August 7, 2013
Time: 9:45 a.m.

SOUTHEASTERN ALASKA COMMERCIAL DUNGENESS CRAB FALL SEASON ANNOUNCEMENT

Petersburg... Alaska Department of Fish and Game (department) announced today that the 2013/2014 commercial Dungeness crab fall fishing season in Southeastern Alaska will not be reduced in duration and will remain as described in 5 AAC 32.110.

In accordance with the Southeastern Alaska Dungeness Crab Management Plan [5 AAC 32.146(3)], the department has completed an analysis of the incidence of legal-size male soft-shelled crabs caught early in the summer season. Based on data from port sampling and fish tickets, the department has determined that an unusually high proportion of legal-size male soft-shelled Dungeness crabs were discarded during the first week of the summer season and that discard of these Dungeness crabs was a contributing factor in failing to meet the 2.25 million pound harvest projection threshold described in the Southeastern Alaska Dungeness Crab Management Plan. Therefore, per 5 AAC 32.146(3), the commercial Dungeness crab fall fishing season will occur with the standard duration described in 5 AAC 32.110.

As previously announced on June 28, 2013, the 2013/2014 commercial Dungeness crab summer fishing season in Southeastern Alaska will close at 11:59 p.m., Thursday, August 8, 2013. A person may store Dungeness crab pots in waters closed to fishing for Dungeness crab for no more than seven days after the closure to fishing for Dungeness crab in Registration Area A if all pot doors are secured fully open and all bait and bait containers are removed [5 AAC 32.052(b)(1)(A)]. All gear must be removed from the water no later than 11:59 p.m., Thursday, August 15, 2013.

The Emergency Order corresponding with this announcement is 1C1713.

News releases web site: <http://www.adfg.alaska.gov/index.cfm?adfg=cfnews.main>.

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